

FALKIRK COUNCIL

Subject: FOLLOWING THE PUBLIC POUND: FALKIRK COMMUNITY TRUST PERFORMANCE
Meeting: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
Date: 2 APRIL 2015
Author: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 This report provides Members with information about the agreement between Falkirk Council and the Falkirk Community Trust (the Trust), in line with Following the Public Pound and Council procedures. It also covers the performance of the Trust against its key objectives, for the following periods:

- October 2014 to December 2014, attached as Appendix 1;
- July 2014 to September 2014, attached as Appendix 2; and
- April 2014 to June 2014, attached as Appendix 3

1.2 In addition, Members previously requested further information relating to the use of individual venues, which is attached as Appendix 4.

1.3 The table below provides Members with an overview of the arrangement in place:

Organisation	Project details	Duration of agreement	Total support (financial & in-kind) 2014/2015	Elected Members nominated during reporting period	Elected Members currently nominated to the Trust Board
Falkirk Community Trust	The provision of cultural, recreation, sports and library services on behalf of Falkirk Council	25 years from June 2011	£13.181million (2014/2015)	Councillors Dennis Goldie, Linda Gow, Malcolm Nicol, Adrian Mahoney, and Provost Pat Reid	Baillie William Buchanan Councillors Dennis Goldie, Linda Gow, Robert Spears, and Provost Pat Reid

1.4 Whilst the Trust provides the strategic services listed above it also has responsibility for:

- The provision of sports, heritage and arts development programmes, health and fitness and outdoor learning, and delivery of the active schools programme;
- The development and lead delivery of strategies and plans in respect of culture, sports, strategic parks and library services. The Trust also contributes to wider Council policy development, where appropriate;
- The strategies and plans on which the Trust leads the development include:

- The Culture and Sports Strategy: *Inspiring Active Lives* which guides a number of supporting plans that are in development including;
- The Physical Activity & Wellbeing Plan;
- The Arts and Heritage Plans, Library Development Plan; and
- Master planning for major sites and Management Plans for each strategic park.




1.5 The Council's Chief Finance Officer has been designated as the key liaison officer with the Trust. This role includes meeting with the Trust's Chief Executive on a quarterly basis, and responsibility for our monitoring regime.

2. ORGANISATION OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE

2.1 The Trust makes a significant contribution to the attainment of the Council's Corporate Plan, as follows:

Trust Outcome	Corporate Plan Goal
People are fitter, healthier and more active, more often	Continuing to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and communities
People benefit from lifelong learning opportunities	Further developing a thriving and sustainable vibrant economy
People are more creative and the potential for success and wellbeing is nurtured	Continuing to improve the health, safety and wellbeing of our citizens and communities
People are involved in caring for the area's heritage and environment	Enhancing and sustaining an environment in which people want to live and visit

2.2 The Trust provides a quarterly performance report to the Trust Board's Audit and Performance Sub Group. This provides the source of information for this report. Three such quarterly reports are attached to this report, to provide Members with an overview of performance covering the period 1 April 2014 to 31 December 2014. The following table provides a summary of Trust performance against target over the reporting period. A traffic light system is used within the table and the supporting appendices to categorise how well performance has met target. This is explained in more detail within the appendices.

Reporting Period	Within 5% or above target performance 		5% to 10% below target performance 		10% or more below target performance 	
	<i>No. of indicators</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>No. of indicators</i>	<i>% of total</i>	<i>No. of indicators</i>	<i>% of total</i>
Q3 – October to December 2014 (27 indicators)	16	59%	3	11%	8	30%
Q2 – July to September 2014 (27 indicators)	17	63%	6	22%	4	15%
Q1 – April to June 2014 (27 indicators)	16	59%	7	26%	4	15%

- 2.3 The Trust is aware that performance has declined in the 3rd quarter and this was discussed at their Audit and Performance Sub Group on 5th March 2015. The management team were asked to continue to take action to address areas requiring improvement.
- 2.4 In addition to reporting the performance to Members, it is helpful to set this in the context of some the key achievements of the Trust during the reporting period, which include:

Q1 Achievements – April to June 2014

- Admissions to Grangemouth and Mariner Centre Circuit Clubs increased by 14.9% and 11.6% respectively compared to the same quarter in 2013/14, largely due to extra usage from the expanded fitness class programme.
- Admissions to Grangemouth Stadium increased by 7.4% over the same quarter last year, attributed to increased attendances at athletics events and an increase in gymnastics use.
- Neighbourhood Centre admissions increased by 11.6%, the highest Q1 total recorded in the past 5 years.
- Rounds of golf played at Grangemouth Golf Course increased by 22.8% compared to Q1 last year, being attributed to improvements made to the course and favourable weather conditions.
- A 17.9% increase in the number of participant sessions delivered by Active Schools, due to the success of ‘Going for Glasgow’ ahead of the Commonwealth Games.
- Use of public access terminals in libraries increased by 9.8% with increased usage attributed to the Government’s policy for Digital by Default.
- Visits to Kinneil Museum increased by 17.6% compared to the same quarter last year, with successful open days at Kinneil House and the Festival of Museums contributing to this increase.
- Participants in Outdoor Activities increased by 19.2%, helped by an expanded partnership with Stirling & Falkirk Canoe Club and stable spring weather.

Q2 Achievements – July to September 2014

- Admissions to Grangemouth Circuit Club 13.0% higher than this time last year, largely due to extra usage from the expanded fitness class programme
- Neighbourhood Centre admissions increased by 5.5% compared to the 6-month position 2013-14, the best Q2 position in recent years.
- An additional 2,431 rounds of golf played at Grangemouth Golf Course, a 15.4% on the same 6-month period last year. This is being attributed to improvements made to the course and favourable weather conditions.
- The number of participants in Cultural Services activities being over 150% higher than the 6-month position last year, with Youth Music Initiative (YMI) activity in schools now being included in this measure.
- A 17.9% increase in the number of participant sessions delivered by Active Schools, due to the success of ‘Going for Glasgow’ ahead of the Commonwealth Games.
- Use of public access terminals in libraries increased by 5.7% with increased usage attributed to the Government’s policy for Digital by Default.
- Visits to Kinneil Museum increased by 24.4% compared to Q1 and Q2 2013-14, with successful open days at Kinneil House contributing to this increase.

Q3 Achievements – October to December 2014

- Admissions to Bo'ness Recreation Centre increased by 5.7% compared to the same quarter last year, with increased usage in all areas except squash and indoor football.
- Grangemouth Stadium admissions 18.9% higher than the same quarter last year, with this increase occurring despite the running track being closed for replacement works for part of the quarter.
- Admissions to Grangemouth Circuit Club 17.8% higher than Q3 last year, mainly due to increased fitness class usage.
- Falkirk Town Hall admissions increased by 18.7%, with increases in show/event attendances and in conference and meetings use.
- Park Gallery admissions being 57.1% higher than Q3 last year attributed to the popularity of the 'Strictly Botanical' exhibition.
- Active Schools continuing the recent trend with an 18.5% increase in participant sessions delivered, continuing efforts to maintain activity participation levels following Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.
- 100% increase in visits to Kinneil Museum compared to the same quarter last year, with events in partnership with Friends of Kinneil and consultation sessions contributing to the increase.

3. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

- 3.1 The Trust has been in operation since January 2011 and as an organisation it is still developing. The major strategic, business and operational risks associated with the Trust have been identified and are reviewed by the Board periodically. A Strategic Risk Management policy is in place, together with a risk register with review and mitigation processes.
- 3.2 A copy of the budgetary control statement presented to the Trust Board in February is attached at Appendix 5. At this stage in the financial year, the projected surplus on charitable activities is £455,000. The overall surplus is mainly due to the changes in the spending profiles for Helix, particularly with the delayed opening of the Visitor Centre. In addition the Trust's wholly subsidiary, Falkirk Community Trading Limited is projected to achieve a surplus of £76,000. The reserves at 31 March 2015, including the sums carried forward for the Helix Visitor Centre, are projected to be £767,000 (2013/14 - £397,000).

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of Following the Public Pound. It demonstrates the continuing performance the Trust is achieving against most of its key indicators and the relative health of its financial performance. As with all Following the Public Pound Reports Members can:
- Approve the report and acknowledge the progress the Trust has made in delivering on its core commitments for the Council;
 - Request further information on specific aspects of the services provided; and/or
 - Request action with follow-up for further consideration by the Committee.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Committee:

- 5.1 Considers this report and selects from one of the options listed at 4.1 what course of action it requires; and**
- 5.2 Notes the progress and performance of the Trust during the period 1 April 2014 to 31 December 2014.**

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Date: 16 March 2015
Ref: ABC0415AW – FCT FPP Report
Contact Name: Andrew Wilson

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 1. Falkirk Community Trust Business Plan**

Any person wishing to inspect the background papers listed above should telephone Falkirk 01324 506046 and ask for Andrew Wilson.